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...ION REPORT

...NATED BY

...NTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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25X1

SUBJECT: Hungary

Barvasto Bauxite Mines

DATE DISTRIBUTED: 24 July 57

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT #

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The headquarters of the Bauxite Corporation is at Balaton-almadi, on the northern shore of Lake Balaton, for the very good reason that it started out as a Soviet proposition and the Soviets decided they would like to live and work in a lake resort town. When the Hungarians took charge of the corporation in 1954, they saw no good reason to move.

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2. [redacted] bauxite in the area reaching some ten miles west of the town of Halimba, which is the site of the well-known bauxite beds that lie some 60 meters below the ground and are 40 to 90 meters thick.

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3. In this region west of Halimba there are numerous bauxite deposits in lentil formation (as opposed to deep-down beds) [redacted] there were perhaps 25 lentils in all that were large enough to number. However, main interest centered on two adjacent lentils (known as V and VI), and when the name "Barvasto" is applied it is meant to denote these two lentils.

25X1

25X1

4. Barvasto is in a wooded area about 8 miles southwest of Halimba, and about 4 miles due west of Nyirad. [redacted]

ILLEGIB

5. Lentils V and VI are extensive. They run roughly northwest-northeast, and they are very nearly connected. Number V, on the NE, is perhaps 240 meters long and 300-450 wide, while VI, to the SW of it, is about 350 meters long and 300 wide. From the extreme NE to extreme SW, the combined formation is about 750 meters long. Both lentils are about 6 meters under the surface and both rest on dolomites. Lentil V is 24 meters thick at the maximum depth, while lentil VI is 15-18 meters thick. Thus, both formations lend themselves to relatively easy open-pit operations. The ground is not wet, so there is no problem about pumping.

ILLEGIB

6. Prior to 1956, the Halimba beds produced about half the bauxite mined in Hungary, while Barvasto indicated that it would produce at least another 40 per cent, so that with both going full time these two sources stand to yield 90 per cent of all Hungarian bauxite [illegible] and perhaps the figure would be even higher.

[illegible]

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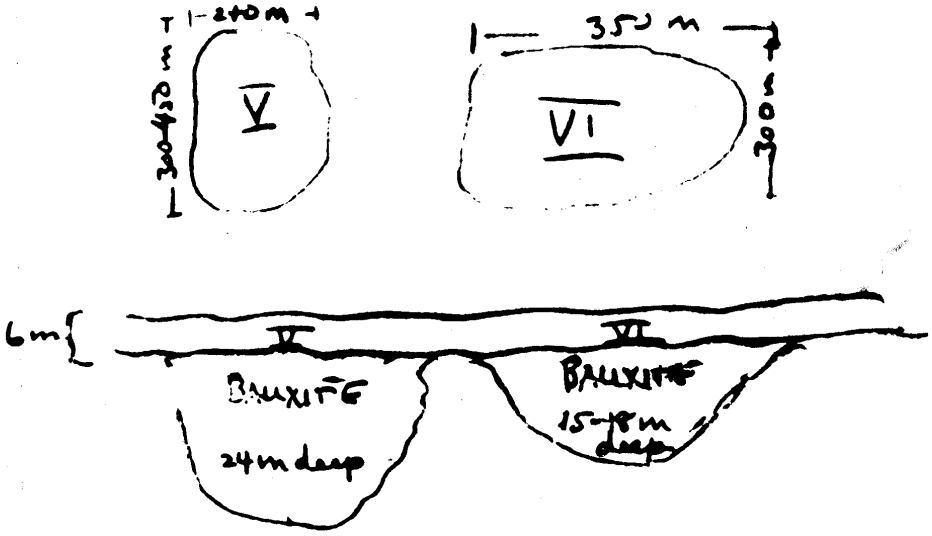
7. Barvasto began operating in July of 1956, was closed down by strikes during the uprising, but by 1 December had started slowly to resume production. It should have been working full blast by February 1957, [redacted] In any event, tests of Barvasto ore indicated that it contains 30-50 per cent aluminum oxide and 10-20 per cent iron and this, plus the speed with which the bauxite can be mined, indicate that eventually Barvasto will figure very large in Hungary's mining efforts. 25X1

8. All bauxite taken from the Halimba and Barvasto mines was carried in trucks to a Soviet-run plant in the city of Ajka, which is 5-6 miles north of Halimba. The Soviets paid the munificent sum of 4 forints per ton of bauxite ore, and after processing sent their output to the USSR for manufacturing. Some of it reportedly went to East Germany and Czechoslovakia [redacted] In any case, Hungarians had a feeling that when they paid a high price for imported aluminum-ware they were very likely buying back their own bauxite. 25X1



[redacted] 25X1

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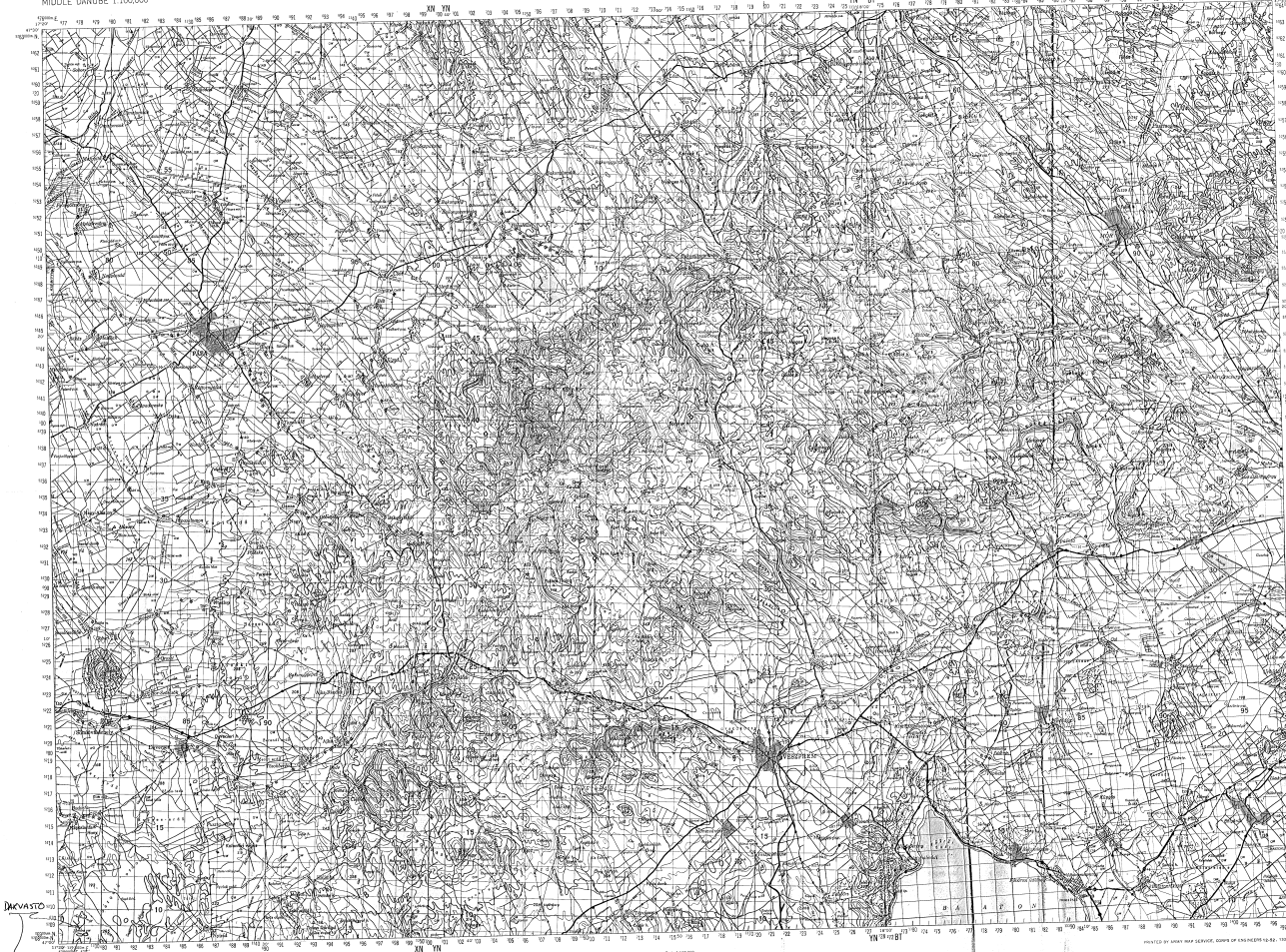

LEGEND

CONTOUR INTERVAL 25 METERS

HEIGHTS IN METERS

GLOSSARY

TRANSVERSE MERCATOR PROJECTION

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SIGNAL PHOTO REVISION DIAGRAM

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